

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for processing an electronic mail (e-mail)
2 message having an attachment, comprising:

3 receiving as input from a sender the e-mail message
4 and the attachment, for transmission across a network;

5 receiving as input from the sender a designation of a
6 first set of one or more recipients and a designation of a
7 second set of one or more recipients;

8 sending the e-mail message and the attachment to the
9 first set of one or more recipients; and

10 sending the e-mail message without the attachment to
11 the second set of one or more recipients.

1 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the
2 designation of the first set comprises extracting
3 respective addresses of the one or more recipients in the
4 first set from a field of the e-mail message indicative of
5 primary recipients, and wherein receiving the designation
6 of the second set comprises extracting respective addresses
7 of the one or more recipients in the second set from a
8 field of the e-mail message indicative of secondary
9 recipients.

1 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the
2 designations comprises:

3 displaying a list of all recipients of the e-mail
4 message; and

5 receiving from the sender respective designations with
6 respect to at least some of the displayed recipients, which
7 differentiate between those recipients who are to be placed
8 in the first set and those recipients who are to be placed
9 in the second set.

1 4. A method according to claim 1, and comprising:
2 displaying a first visual representation, indicating
3 that the one or more recipients in the first set were sent
4 the e-mail message and the attachment; and
5 displaying a second visual representation, different
6 from the first representation, indicating that the one or
7 more recipients in the second set were sent the e-mail
8 message without the attachment.

1 5. A method according to claim 1, and comprising sending
2 to the second set of one or more recipients information
3 identifying the attachment.

1 6. A method according to claim 1, and comprising sending
2 to the second set of one or more recipients respective
3 identifiers of the one or more recipients in the first set.

1 7. A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the
2 e-mail message and the attachment comprises receiving, as
3 input from the sender, the e-mail message and a plurality
4 of attachments,

5 wherein receiving the designation of the first set
6 comprises receiving respective designations, for each
7 recipient in the first set, of which one or more of the
8 plurality of attachments are to be sent to that recipient,
9 and

10 wherein sending the e-mail message and the attachment
11 to the first set of one or more recipients comprises:

12 sending the e-mail message to the first set of
13 one or more recipients; and

14 sending, to each recipient in the first set, the
15 one or more of the plurality of attachments designated
16 to be sent to that recipient.

1 8. Apparatus for processing an electronic mail (e-mail)
2 message having an attachment, comprising:

3 a data port; and

4 a processor, arranged to receive a designation of a
5 first set of one or more recipients and a designation of a
6 second set of one or more recipients, to actuate the data
7 port to send the e-mail message and the attachment to the
8 first set of one or more recipients, and to actuate the
9 data port to send the e-mail message without the attachment
10 to the second set of one or more recipients.

1 9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the processor
2 is arranged to extract respective addresses of the one or
3 more recipients in the first set from a field of the e-mail
4 message indicative of primary recipients, and wherein the
5 processor is arranged to extract respective addresses of
6 the one or more recipients in the second set from a field
7 of the e-mail message indicative of secondary recipients.

1 10. Apparatus according to claim 8, and comprising a
2 display, wherein the processor is arranged to actuate the
3 display to display a list of all recipients of the e-mail
4 message, and wherein the processor is arranged to receive
5 from a sender of the e-mail message respective designations
6 with respect to at least some of the displayed recipients,
7 which differentiate between those recipients who are to be
8 placed in the first set and those recipients who are to be
9 placed in the second set.

1 11. Apparatus according to claim 8, and comprising a
2 display, wherein the processor is arranged to actuate the
3 display to display a first visual representation,
4 indicating that the one or more recipients in the first set

5 were sent the e-mail message and the attachment, and
6 wherein the processor is arranged to actuate the display to
7 display a second visual representation, different from the
8 first representation, indicating that the one or more
9 recipients in the second set were sent the e-mail message
10 without the attachment.

1 12. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the processor
2 is arranged to actuate the data port to send to the second
3 set of one or more recipients information identifying the
4 attachment.

1 13. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the processor
2 is arranged to actuate the data port to send to the second
3 set of one or more recipients respective identifiers of the
4 one or more recipients in the first set.

1 14. A computer program product for processing an
2 electronic mail (e-mail) message having an attachment, the
3 product comprising a computer-readable medium having
4 program instructions embodied therein, which instructions,
5 when read by a computer, cause the computer to:

6 receive as input from a sender the e-mail message and
7 the attachment, for transmission across a network;

8 receive as input from the sender a designation of a
9 first set of one or more recipients and a designation of a
10 second set of one or more recipients;

11 send the e-mail message and the attachment to the
12 first set of one or more recipients; and

13 send the e-mail message without the attachment to the
14 second set of one or more recipients.

1 15. A computer program product according to claim 14,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause

3 the computer to extract respective addresses of the one or
4 more recipients in the first set from a field of the e-mail
5 message indicative of primary recipients, and to extract
6 respective addresses of the one or more recipients in the
7 second set from a field of the e-mail message indicative of
8 secondary recipients.

1 16. A computer program product according to claim 14,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause
3 the computer to display a list of all recipients of the e-
4 mail message and to receive from the sender respective
5 designations with respect to at least some of the displayed
6 recipients, which differentiate between those recipients
7 who are to be placed in the first set and those recipients
8 who are to be placed in the second set.

1 17. A computer program product according to claim 14,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause
3 the computer to (a) display a first visual representation,
4 indicating that the one or more recipients in the first set
5 were sent the e-mail message and the attachment, and (b)
6 display a second visual representation, different from the
7 first representation, indicating that the one or more
8 recipients in the second set were sent the e-mail message
9 without the attachment.

1 18. A computer program product according to claim 14,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause
3 the computer to send to the second set of one or more
4 recipients information identifying the attachment.

1 19. A computer program product according to claim 14,
2 wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause
3 the computer to send to the second set of one or more

recipients respective identifiers of the one or more recipients in the first set.

20. A computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the instructions, when read by the computer, cause the computer to:

receive, as input from the sender, the e-mail message and a plurality of attachments;

receive respective designations, for each recipient in the first set, of which one or more of the plurality of attachments are to be sent to that recipient;

send the e-mail message to the first set of one or more recipients; and

send, to each recipient in the first set, the one or more of the plurality of attachments designated to be sent to that recipient.

21. A method for processing an electronic mail (e-mail) message having an attachment, comprising:

receiving as input from a sender the e-mail message and the attachment for transmission to a recipient;

receiving as input from the sender an instruction indicative of whether to save the attachment;

sending the e-mail message and the attachment to the recipient; and

responsive to the instruction indicating not to save the attachment, saving the e-mail message without the attachment.

22. Apparatus for processing an electronic mail (e-mail) message having an attachment, comprising:

a data port;

a memory; and

5 a processor, arranged to receive from a sender an
6 instruction indicative of whether to save the attachment,
7 arranged to actuate the data port to send the e-mail
8 message and the attachment to a recipient, and arranged to
9 save the e-mail message in the memory without the
10 attachment responsive to the instruction indicating not to
11 save the attachment.

1 23. A computer program product for processing an
2 electronic mail (e-mail) message having an attachment, the
3 product comprising a computer-readable medium having
4 program instructions embodied therein, which instructions,
5 when read by a computer, cause the computer to:

6 receive as input from a sender the e-mail message and
7 the attachment for transmission to a recipient;

8 receive as input from the sender an instruction
9 indicative of whether to save the attachment;

10 send the e-mail message and the attachment to the
11 recipient; and

12 responsive to the instruction indicating not to save
13 the attachment, save the e-mail message without the
14 attachment.